

**BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD**

REGULATING BARRISTERS

**THE BAR STANDARDS BOARD
CENTRAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD
CHAIR'S REPORT
PART 2**

**Bar Training, BTT, BPTC & BTR
December 2025 Sitting**

This report should be read in conjunction with Part 1 of the Chair's report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bar Training course is the successor to the Bar Professional Training Course ('BPTC') as the vocational training component to be successfully completed prior to call to the Bar. The Bar Training Course saw its first intake of students at nine Authorised Education and Training Organisations (AETOs) in September 2020. Depending on the course structure offered at each AETO, candidates will have had their first opportunity to attempt the centralised assessments in Civil and Criminal Litigation in December 2020.

1.1 December 2025 Examination dates

The December 2025 Bar Training exam dates were as follows:

Criminal Litigation:	Monday 8 December 2025 at 14:00
Civil Litigation (Paper 1):	Tuesday 2 December 2025 at 14:00
Civil Litigation (Paper 2):	Thursday 4 December 2025 at 14:00

1.2 Passing rates

The confirmed post-intervention outcomes for the sixteenth iteration of examinations attempted by Bar Training course candidates in December 2025, which are as follows:

		All AETOs (Post-Intervention Results)					
		Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	407	989	738	824	1517	791
	Passing Rate	56%	49%	41%	53%	60%	46%
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	383	1104	827	824	1653	802
	Passing Rate	60%	46%	42%	56%	64%	52%
		Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	929	1671	890	833	1748	987
	Passing Rate	56%	60%	45%	53%	60%	45%
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	596	1583	842	799	1754	1008
	Passing Rate	50%	66%	40%	55%	61%	48%
		Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	937	1728	1099	1002		
	Passing Rate	61%	54%	48%	49%		
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	887	1811	1103	787		
	Passing Rate	50%	60%	57%	56%		

1.2.1 In comparing results across the sixteen iterations of assessment it should be noted that for the December 2020 sit, only nine AETO centres presented cohorts of candidates for assessment. For April 2021 the figure was 19 AETO centres, which explains why there were significantly more candidates for that sitting compared to December 2020. From April 2021 onwards, sittings will have comprised a mix of first sit (new and deferred) and resitting candidates (ie candidates who had previously failed an assessment without extenuating circumstances). The April 2022 sitting saw the first cohorts entered by ULaw Liverpool, the December 2022 sitting the first cohorts entered by the University of Hertfordshire, and the April 2023 sitting the first candidates entered by ULaw Newcastle.

1.2.2 For the December 2025 sitting there were 21 AETO assessment centres providing candidate cohort results. As can be seen in the above table, the overall December 2025 passing rate for Civil Litigation is the lowest December passing rate since the current assessment format was introduced, although there have been five sittings where the passing rate was lower. The December 2025 passing rate in Criminal Litigation is largely in line with previous December sittings. See further on candidate numbers at 1.3 and 1.4 below.

1.3. Candidate numbers by AETO centre: Civil Litigation

Civil Litigation: Candidate Numbers						
AETO	Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
BPP Birmingham	28	31	28	40	47	32
BPP Bristol	19	16	14	19	7	9
BPP Leeds	27	32	20	35	16	5
BPP London	151	179	150	263	274	173
BPP Manchester	58	54	35	89	49	37
Cardiff	51	39	15	60	35	14
City	22	208	132	59	378	136
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICCA	28	34	5	56	33	14
MMU	23	9	11	24	7	8
Northumbria	N/A	64	36	15	64	36
NTU	N/A	50	37	23	53	34
Ulaw Birmingham	N/A	34	41	17	82	51
Ulaw Bristol	N/A	13	4	1	18	5
Ulaw Leeds	N/A	22	17	7	43	26
Ulaw Liverpool	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	5
Ulaw London	N/A	89	106	65	216	137
Ulaw Manchester	N/A	19	18	7	54	20
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A	7	1	2	16	7
UWE	N/A	89	68	41	109	42
TOTAL	407	989	738	823	1517	791

AETO	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	56	42	55	35	38	61
BPP Bristol	8	9	6	5	17	5
BPP Leeds	16	18	9	24	15	13
BPP London	260	299	244	217	257	222
BPP Manchester	73	73	79	72	74	89
Cardiff	72	25	13	81	37	19
City	75	397	105	46	429	132
Hertfordshire	13	6	7	1	2	5
ICCA	89	38	14	117	82	34
MMU	23	12	7	37	5	11
Northumbria	14	69	24	10	78	27
NTU	24	74	42	25	70	45
Ulaw Birmingham	30	89	46	12	61	51
Ulaw Bristol	3	33	9	N/A	31	5
Ulaw Leeds	12	60	31	9	73	48
Ulaw Liverpool	2	56	22	14	100	30
Ulaw London	101	197	96	57	169	102
Ulaw Manchester	7	44	18	11	74	18
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	9	5	N/A	11	6
Ulaw Nottingham	6	12	3	N/A	13	6
UWE	45	109	55	60	112	58
TOTAL	929	1671	890	833	1748	987

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	36	28	56	27		
BPP Bristol	6	15	4	1		
BPP Leeds	29	28	13	59		
BPP London	253	302	285	292		
BPP Manchester	61	61	80	87		
Cardiff	92	27	15	111		
City	47	343	128	54		
Hertfordshire	2	20	16	6		
ICCA	165	81	34	87		
MMU	29	5	12	45		
Northumbria	14	70	26	12		
NTU	37	91	61	38		
Ulaw Birmingham	18	54	41	12		
Ulaw Bristol	4	29	7	2		
Ulaw Leeds	20	78	70	15		
Ulaw Liverpool	15	82	15	18		
Ulaw London	54	156	106	77		
Ulaw Manchester	9	69	23	15		
Ulaw Newcastle	3	18	7	3		
Ulaw Nottingham	2	11	9	3		
UWE	41	160	91	38		
TOTAL	937	1728	1099	1002		

1.3.1 The December 2020 sit was the first opportunity for candidates to attempt the centralised assessments for the Bar Training course, hence the lower volume of candidates. As can be seen, for the December 2025 sit, BPP London had the largest cohort, accounting for 29.1% of the Civil Litigation candidate entries, and BPP London has also provided 22.4% of the total number of candidate entries across the sixteen sittings offered thus far.

1.4 Candidate numbers by AETO centre: Criminal Litigation

Criminal Litigation: Candidate Numbers						
AETO	Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
BPP Birmingham	28	30	29	43	64	22
BPP Bristol	20	16	13	26	5	7
BPP Leeds	20	25	24	35	20	7
BPP London	137	202	174	270	261	199
BPP Manchester	52	62	47	91	60	34
Cardiff	54	37	19	19	70	21
City	20	247	154	77	425	141
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICCA	32	31	7	56	31	13
MMU	20	14	11	20	11	7
Northumbria	N/A	40	25	13	64	24
NTU	N/A	51	36	23	55	32
Ulaw Birmingham	N/A	46	49	20	88	56
Ulaw Bristol	N/A	15	2	N/A	18	5
Ulaw Leeds	N/A	38	20	8	47	25
Ulaw Liverpool	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	2
Ulaw London	N/A	107	127	73	234	129
Ulaw Manchester	N/A	23	19	7	61	9
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A	5	1	2	14	3
UWE	N/A	115	70	41	108	66
TOTAL	383	1104	827	824	1653	802

AETO	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	36	32	33	60	33	36
BPP Bristol	N/A	1	9	4	4	13
BPP Leeds	5	14	20	5	23	19
BPP London	120	184	249	214	207	256
BPP Manchester	35	65	49	68	74	51
Cardiff	20	68	15	37	65	17
City	61	408	114	73	419	142
Hertfordshire	15	9	10	1	4	3
ICCA	92	37	9	129	69	24
MMU	24	8	7	35	21	12
Northumbria	14	75	14	9	77	25
NTU	24	69	38	27	77	51
Ulaw Birmingham	19	80	40	12	67	54
Ulaw Bristol	2	32	7	N/A	31	5
Ulaw Leeds	9	60	30	10	76	50
Ulaw Liverpool	2	59	20	12	96	35
Ulaw London	76	174	103	52	167	111
Ulaw Manchester	3	43	13	10	75	28
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	9	1	N/A	11	6
Ulaw Nottingham	3	13	3	N/A	13	8
UWE	36	143	58	41	145	62
TOTAL	596	1583	842	799	1754	1008

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	58	32	31	45		
BPP Bristol	6	3	14	5		
BPP Leeds	8	30	30	6		
BPP London	238	258	324	234		
BPP Manchester	64	58	62	69		
Cardiff	21	84	22	31		
City	69	376	142	57		
Hertfordshire	1	21	11	3		
ICCA	177	70	32	110		
MMU	48	16	10	55		
Northumbria	15	67	25	8		
NTU	37	93	62	30		
Ulaw Birmingham	18	66	38	9		
Ulaw Bristol	2	30	12	1		
Ulaw Leeds	16	83	55	11		
Ulaw Liverpool	15	81	14	17		
Ulaw London	47	159	118	50		
Ulaw Manchester	8	71	21	8		
Ulaw Newcastle	1	17	4	3		
Ulaw Nottingham	5	13	6	4		
UWE	33	183	70	31		
TOTAL	887	1811	1103	787		

1.4.1 As with the data for Civil Litigation, the December 2020 sit was the first opportunity for candidates to attempt the centralised assessments for the Bar Training course, hence the lower volume of candidates. As can be seen, for the December 2025 sit, BPP London had the largest cohort, accounting for 29.7% of the Criminal Litigation candidate entries, and BPP London has provided 21% of the total number of candidate entries across the sixteen sittings offered thus far.

2. BAR TRAINING CRIMINAL LITIGATION RESULTS DECEMBER 2025 SIT

2.1 Exam Board decisions in relation to selected questions

2.1.1 For the December 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment, requests for intervention from AETOs were received in relation to 2/75 questions (see 2.1.2, below).

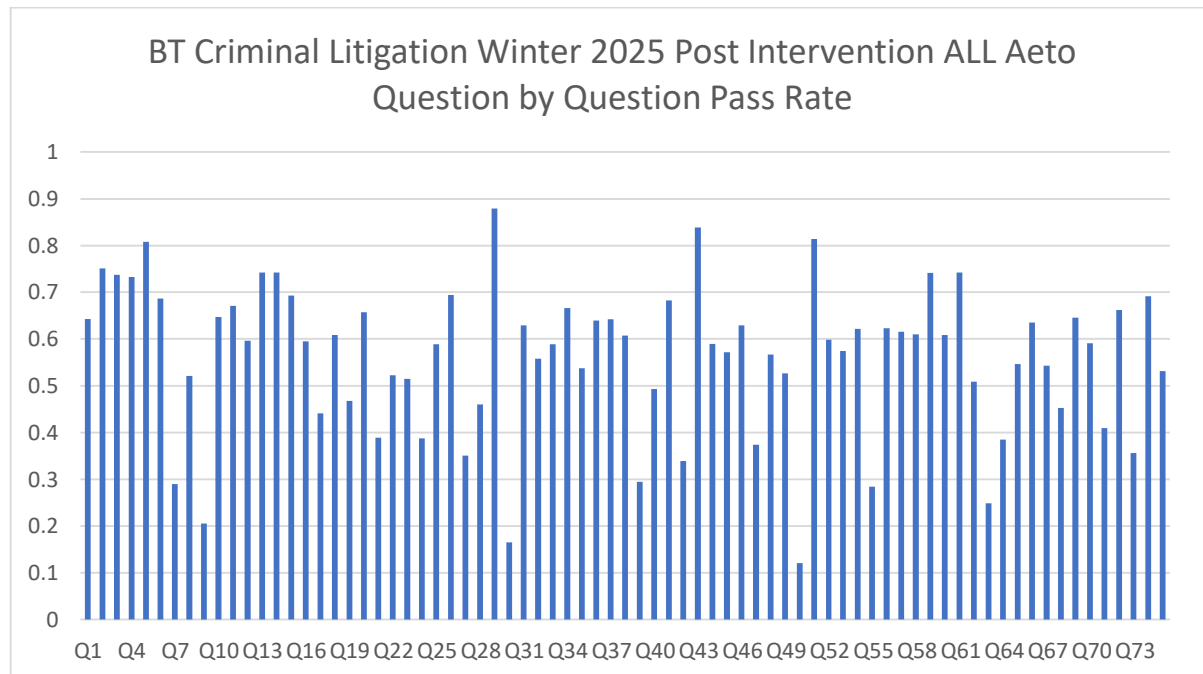
2.1.2 Summary of Exam Board deliberations

The table below provides a summary of the Exam Board deliberations where interventions (if any) were agreed, and instances where, although no interventions were required, some points for future reference were raised in the Board's deliberations.

Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.1	1	<p>Passing rate 64%; Point Biserial 0.34</p> <p>AETO feedback was to credit [A] as well as correct answer [D], on the basis that, as the paragraphs on syllabus dealing with this topic repeatedly state, to proceed in the absence of the accused (even when the absence is voluntary) is a course that should only be taken in rare and exceptional circumstances. The team disagreed and confirmed that [D] was the only 'best answer', as it gave three clear reasons why the general principle could be departed from.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.34	1	<p>Passing rate 67%; Point Biserial 0.24.</p> <p>AETO feedback indicated that there was text missing from the question. The Board was assured, however, that the full version of the question was seen by candidates. When making the AETO version for feedback, the first part of the first line in the question had been accidentally deleted.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

2.2 Post-intervention pass rate of MCQs

The bar chart below shows the facility score (% of Bar Training candidates answering correctly) for each of the questions in the December 2025 Criminal Litigation examination.



There were no interventions, and the data shows 14 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 13 for the August 2025 sit). There is no significant evidence suggesting a fall-off in candidate performance during the examination (assuming most candidates attempted the 75 MCQs in the order presented). Across the first 25 MCQs the average pass rate was 58%, across MCQs 26 to 50 it decreased to 54%, and across MCQs 51 to 75 it increased to 57%. The Final Board did not feel that the word count of the assessment was an issue.

2.3 Standard setting and reliability of the assessment

2.3.1 The standard setting exercise was undertaken without incident and the Chair for that exercise commended a recommended pass standard of 39.9/75 to the Exam Board. which, in accordance with the custom and practice of the Board, was rounded up to a pass standard of 40/75.

2.3.2 Data supplied to the Final Exam Board by the psychometrician indicated that, with a KR-20 Reliability score of 0.89, the assessment had exceeded the benchmark KR-20 Reliability of 0.80. The Exam Board noted that all other data suggested an assessment operating as expected.

	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25
No. of Candidates	887	1811	1103	787
No. of Scored Items	75	75	75	75
Pass Standard	41	42	40	40
Pass Rate (%)	50.3	60.0	57.0	55.6
Mean Score	41.6	45	41.6	42.1
Standard Deviation	11.6	11.7	9.9	11.5
Range of Scores	15 to 71	15 to 75	15 to 73	16 to 73
Reliability (KR-20)	0.88	0.89	0.84	0.89
Reliability Equivalent 90-item test	0.90	0.91	0.87	0.91
Standard Error of Measurement	4.0	3.8	4	3.8

2.4 Chief Examiner's Report

The Chief Examiner for Criminal Litigation reported that she was satisfied that this assessment was fair to candidates and allowed them to demonstrate their competence to the required threshold, noting that comments from AETOs were generally positive.

2.5 Independent Observer confirmation

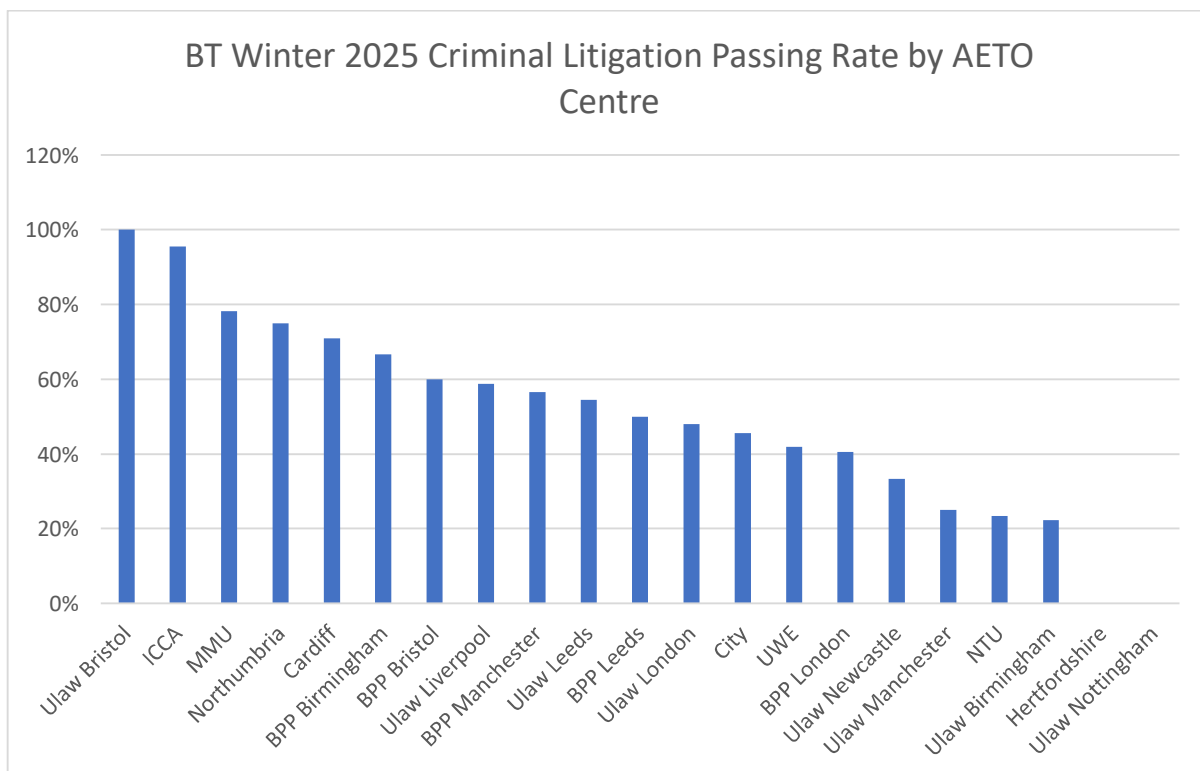
The Independent Observer endorsed the proceedings in respect of the Criminal Litigation assessment.

2.6 Criminal Litigation post-intervention pass rate December 2025

All AETO Post-Intervention	Criminal Litigation April 2024	Criminal Litigation August 2024	Criminal Litigation December 2024
No. of Candidates	1754	1008	887
Passing Rate	61%	48%	50%
All AETO Post-Intervention	Criminal Litigation April 2025	Criminal Litigation August 2025	Criminal Litigation December 2025
No. of Candidates	1811	1103	787
Passing Rate	60%	57%	56%

The table above shows the all-AETO December 2025 post-intervention Bar Training cohort pass rate of 56% for Criminal Litigation, based on a passing standard recommended to the Final Board of 40/75. The post-intervention passing rate is in line with the average passing rate across the previous five sittings which is 55% (see Executive Summary).

2.7 December 2025 Criminal Litigation pass rates by AETO centre



2.7.1 In the above graph the 21 AETO centre cohorts are ranged left to right in declining order of their December 2025 pass rates in the Criminal Litigation assessment. ULaw Bristol achieved a passing rate of 100% but had only one candidate. The ICCA, in second place with a passing rate of 95%, fielded 110 candidates. Both ULaw Nottingham and the University of Hertfordshire had passing rates of 0%, but on very small cohorts of four and three candidates respectively.

2.7.2 Distribution of first sit candidates across the AETO centres for Criminal Litigation December 2025 sitting

AETOs ranked by % of cohort first sitting			
AETO	Cohort Size	# First Sit	% First Sit
ULaw Bristol	1	1	100%
MMU	55	52	95%
ICCA	110	103	94%
Cardiff	31	27	87%
BPP Birmingham	45	35	78%
BPP Manchester	69	48	70%
ULaw London	50	21	42%
ULaw Leeds	11	4	36%
BPP London	234	82	35%
ULaw Birmingham	9	3	33%
ULaw Liverpool	17	3	18%
City	57	9	16%
NTU	30	2	7%
UWE	31	1	3%
BPP Bristol	5	0	0%
BPP Leeds	6	0	0%
Hertfordshire	3	0	0%
Northumbria	8	0	0%
ULaw Manchester	8	0	0%
ULaw Newcastle	3	0	0%
ULaw Nottingham	4	0	0%
OVERALL	787	391	50%

Only six of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates for the December 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment had a preponderance of first sit candidates. Seven AETOs only entered resit candidates in the December 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment.

2.7.3 Comparison of first sit and resit candidate passing rates at each AETO for Criminal Litigation December 2025 sitting

First Sit Pass Rates and Resit Pass Rates CRIMINAL LITIGATION		
AETO	First Sit % Pass	Resit % Pass
BPP Birmingham	66%	70%
BPP Bristol	N/A	60%
BPP Leeds	N/A	50%
BPP London	50%	36%
BPP Manchester	63%	43%
Cardiff	70%	75%
City	56%	44%
Hertfordshire	N/A	0%
ICCA	98%	57%
MMU	79%	67%
Northumbria	N/A	75%
NTU	50%	21%
ULaw Birmingham	33%	17%
ULaw Bristol	100%	N/A
ULaw Leeds	50%	57%
ULaw Liverpool	67%	57%
ULaw London	48%	48%
ULaw Manchester	N/A	25%
ULaw Newcastle	N/A	33%
ULaw Nottingham	N/A	0%
UWE	0%	41%
OVERALL	71%	41%

Data presented to the exam boards for the December 2025 sitting showing the split between first sit and resit candidates for Criminal Litigation revealed that 50% were attempting on a first sit basis (ie first ever attempt at the examination, or previous attempts discounted on the basis of accepted extenuating circumstances), and 50% as resit candidates (ie candidates who had previously failed the examination without mitigating circumstances having been submitted or accepted). First sit cohorts tend to be stronger than resit cohorts, and this is reflected in the 71% passing rate for first sit candidates compared to the 41% passing rate for resit candidates. For the December 2025 Criminal Litigation examination, of the 13 AETO centres with first sit and resit candidates, only five reported a higher passing rate for their resit cohort compared to their first sit cohort.

2.7.4 Passing rates of first sit cohorts at each AETO for Criminal Litigation
December 2025 sitting

AETOs Ranked by First Sit Pass Rate CRIMINAL LITIGATION	
AETO	First Sit % Pass
ULaw Bristol	100%
ICCA	98%
MMU	79%
Cardiff	70%
ULaw Liverpool	67%
BPP Birmingham	66%
BPP Manchester	63%
City	56%
BPP London	50%
NTU	50%
ULaw Leeds	50%
ULaw London	48%
ULaw Birmingham	33%
UWE	0%
BPP Bristol	N/A
BPP Leeds	N/A
Hertfordshire	N/A
Northumbria	N/A
ULaw Manchester	N/A
ULaw Newcastle	N/A
ULaw Nottingham	N/A

There were three AETO centres where fewer than 50% of first sit candidates managed to pass the December 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment (seven AETO centres having no first sit candidates).

2.8 Criminal Litigation trend data – how AETO cohorts have performed over the last 6 sittings

	Apr-24 % Pass	Aug-24 % Pass	Dec-24 % Pass	Apr-25 % Pass	Aug-25 % Pass	Dec-25 % pass	Average Over Six sits
ICCA	90%	88%	92%	81%	97%	95%	91%
Cardiff	74%	59%	67%	68%	82%	71%	70%
Ulaw Leeds	74%	60%	38%	87%	69%	55%	64%
Ulaw Bristol	77%	40%	0%	70%	67%	100%	59%
Northumbria	66%	36%	53%	64%	56%	75%	58%
Ulaw London	60%	61%	38%	64%	70%	48%	57%
Ulaw Liverpool	54%	60%	33%	60%	71%	59%	56%
City	68%	46%	43%	64%	60%	46%	55%
BPP Birmingham	58%	47%	47%	34%	48%	67%	50%
Ulaw Birmingham	57%	46%	39%	70%	63%	22%	49%
BPP Manchester	55%	37%	42%	53%	52%	57%	49%
BPP Leeds	65%	26%	25%	73%	50%	50%	48%
MMU	38%	67%	63%	31%	10%	78%	48%
Ulaw Manchester	59%	57%	25%	63%	57%	25%	48%
UWE	52%	40%	36%	55%	53%	42%	46%
BPP London	50%	42%	37%	47%	50%	41%	44%
Ulaw Newcastle	45%	83%	0%	76%	25%	33%	44%
BPP Bristol	25%	62%	17%	33%	29%	60%	38%
Ulaw Nottingham	46%	25%	60%	54%	33%	0%	36%
NTU	32%	29%	8%	35%	50%	23%	30%
Hertfordshire	50%	33%	0%	38%	45%	0%	28%

2.8.1 AETO centre cohorts are listed in order of the average of their Criminal Litigation passing rates across the last six sittings of the centralised assessments. The data shows that the ICCA currently has the highest average passing rate (91%). The ICCA cohort has also achieved the highest passing rate in four of the last six sittings. The University of Hertfordshire has the lowest average passing rate at 28%, that figure driven in part by two instances of 0% passing rates (the December 2024, and the December 2025 sittings). Again, it should be borne in mind that low candidate numbers can sometimes have a distorting effect in terms of pass rates.

2.8.2 An alternative way of assessing the success of each AETO across all the sittings to date (ie sixteen sittings in total) is to consider the cumulative total of attempts at the exam by candidates at that AETO made over all sittings thus far, and to compare this with the number of those attempts which were passing attempts. Note that a candidate who, for example, passes on their third attempt, will be recorded in the second column (“total number of attempts”) three times, but will only appear in the third column (“total number of passes”) once, the final column should not therefore be taken as the “percentage of candidates at each AETO who have passed,” but should instead be understood as the “percentage of attempts at this assessment which were successful.”

BT Criminal Litigation December 2020 to December 2025 (16 Sits)			
AETO	Total Number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	919	838	91%
ULaw Bristol	162	111	69%
ULaw Leeds	538	365	68%
ULaw Newcastle	52	34	65%
Cardiff City	600	388	65%
ULaw London	2925	1796	61%
ULaw Manchester	1727	1019	59%
Northumbria	399	235	59%
ULaw Liverpool	495	283	57%
ULaw Nottingham	370	202	55%
ULaw Birmingham	93	50	54%
BPP Leeds	662	354	53%
BPP Manchester	291	153	53%
MMU	941	494	52%
BPP Birmingham	319	161	50%
UWE	612	291	48%
BPP London	1202	556	46%
BPP Bristol	3527	1625	46%
NTU	146	64	44%
Hertfordshire	705	241	34%
Hertfordshire	78	22	28%
OVERALL	16763	9282	55%

2.8.3 As can be seen from the above table there have been 16,763 attempts at the Criminal Litigation assessment since the first sitting of the Bar Training exams in December 2020, of which 9282 have been successful, generating an aggregate passing rate to date of 55%. There are 12 AETOs whose cumulative percentage of passing attempts is lower than this. The range between the AETO with the highest rate of passing attempts and that with the lowest is 63%. Six AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts below 50%. As discussed above, this does not necessarily mean that less than half of that AETO’s candidates pass this exam, but it does mean that the exam is passed less than 50% of the times it is attempted at that AETO.

3. BAR TRAINING CIVIL LITIGATION RESULTS DECEMBER 2025 SIT

3.1 Exam Board decisions in relation to selected questions

3.1.1 For the December 2025 Civil Litigation assessment, requests for intervention from AETOs were received in relation to 16/90 questions (see 3.1.2, below).

3.1.2 Summary of Exam Board deliberations

The table below provides a summary of the Exam Board deliberations where interventions (if any) were agreed, and instances where, although no intervention was agreed, points for future reference were raised in the Board's deliberations.

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Paper 1		
Q.1	1	<p>Passing rate 54%; Point Biserial 0.36</p> <p>The AETO feedback questioned whether it was unfair to ask questions on paper 1 which required knowledge of the commentary. The Board confirmed that commentary questions could appear on either paper. For this question, the commentary was very short and headed 'redaction' and the same term appeared in option [C]. The information was clearly on syllabus.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.5	1	<p>Passing rate 36%; Point Biserial 0.26</p> <p>This SBA assessed the extent to which candidates understood the principles underpinning the court's approach to ordering expert evidence.</p> <p>The relevant syllabus reading was contained within the CPR Part 35 supported by the associated Practice Direction. It was intended that, in response to the stem asking for the order which the court was likely to make in relation to expert evidence, candidates would identify option [B] as the best answer: ie. that a single joint expert should be instructed as it would be disproportionate for each party to have its own expert. It was thought that candidates would readily extract from the facts that the fundamental binary issue between the parties - whether a statue was made of marble or synthetic material - was not complex and expert evidence would be restricted to one expert.</p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
		<p>Option [B] was the preferred best answer based on the syllabus reading, which provides that the court had a duty to restrict expert evidence to that which was reasonably necessary. In circumstances where the issue was not complex and where it was unlikely there would be a range of opinion, it would be disproportionate to allow single experts for each party. It was intended that candidates would see that the instruction of a single joint expert was likely to assist the parties to resolve the issue more speedily. This option attracted 36% of the cohort with reasonable discrimination of 0.26.</p> <p>By contrast, candidates were also attracted to option [A] (18%, with discrimination of 0.03). A substantial 33% were attracted to [D] but with discrimination of - 0.17. It was noted that the performance of the cohort on this question was notably worse than when the question was used previously.</p> <p>The examining team considered both the facts and the AETO feedback, which suggested that options [A] and [D] should be credited on the basis that the question required a degree of practitioner knowledge and that candidates may not have gleaned enough from the fact pattern to determine where proportionality lay.</p> <p>Looking closely at the facts presented, the examining team deliberated as to whether some changes to the fact pattern and the wording of option [B] might have assisted in giving better steer to the candidates, making it more apparent that a single joint expert was the most likely order given the fundamental nature of the issue between the parties. It was also considered that the claim value of £135,000 may have led candidates to believe, incorrectly, that this alone would mean that it was proportionate to have two experts to determine the issue (option [A]).</p> <p>The examining team was not unanimous in whether an intervention was justified. However, it was agreed on a majority, that, in fairness to the candidates, option [A] (in addition to the preferred option [B]) should be credited as it represented a viable option open to the court. For completeness, it was decided that there was insufficient merit to credit option [D] which proceeded on the basis of track and value alone without adequate regard to the underlying principles.</p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
		<i>Intervention: the Board agreed to credit option [A] in addition to option [B].</i>
Q.11	2	<p>Passing rate 53%; Point Biserial 0.39 This question assessed the procedural steps to be taken to file notice of appeal following a judgment given at trial in the County Court. The stem sought the date by when notice should be given and the court/judge.</p> <p>Option [C] was stated as the correct answer: 27 November; the appeal was to a High Court Judge. This option attracted 53% of the cohort with good discrimination of 0.39. However, there was AETO feedback that option [C] was incorrect and that the correct date was, in fact, 26 November. The examining team had deliberated this point in advance of the subject board, and it was agreed that the correct date should have been 26 November.</p> <p>The question sat at the point where two sets of rules had to be read together: the substantive time limit in CPR 52.12 and the general rules on calculation of time, together with the worked examples, in CPR 2.8. Although 21 days was allowed for an appellant to file notice of appeal, this was not a matter of simple arithmetic. It required an understanding of which days were excluded by the rules and how the counting mechanism operated. The White Book commentary (outside the syllabus) acknowledged that the structure of CPR 2.8 and its worked examples could feel ambiguous and that time-calculation under the CPR was a technical and error-prone area.</p> <p>The difficulty was that CPR 2.8 provided that a period expressed as number of days was to be computed as “clear days”, but that concept was defined in terms of which days were to be excluded from the calculations of the point from which time should begin to be counted. In particular, CPR 2.8(3) excluded the day on which the period began and, (only where the end of the period was defined by reference to an event,) the day on which that event occurred. This created potential uncertainty as to when time started to run and whether the end of the period was event-based or simply the expiry of a fixed number of days. These distinctions added further layers of complexity. CPR 52.12 uses the formulation that an appellant must file the appellant’s notice “within 21 days</p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
		<p>after the date of the decision”. At first sight, that appeared to align with the example at CPR2.8(3)(ii), which deals with periods expressed by reference to an event. However, it was agreed that the wording was in fact was aligned with example CPR 2.8(3)(iii) which deals with periods expressed as fixed number of days “within” which an act must be done and where the end of the period is not defined by reference to any further event.</p> <p>In this question, once CPR 2.8 is applied correctly, the day of the decision (5 November) is excluded, Day 1 becomes 6 November, and Day 21 falls on 26 November, which is therefore the last day for filing. The consequence of that was that there was no correct answer available for candidates to select and, therefore, the question needed to be suppressed.</p> <p><i>Intervention: the Board agreed to suppress this question.</i></p>
Q.18	1	<p>Passing rate 72%; Point Biserial 0.26</p> <p>AETO feedback was to the effect that option [D] should be credited as the facts suggested this could be a correct answer. The Board noted that 72% of candidates answered this question correctly, only 11% chose option [D] and that option had clear negative correlation. The fact pattern clearly set out of the date of knowledge for the claim.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.37	1	<p>Passing rate 63%; Point Biserial 0.34</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention (option [B] to be credited in addition to the examination team’s preferred best answer [C]). The board felt that the statistics did not support this conclusion. 63% of candidates answered the question correctly and there was very good discrimination. Option [B] only attracted 15% of candidates and had very clear negative discrimination. The fact pattern clearly set out the reasons why mediation is not appropriate.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.38	1	<p>Passing rate 45%; Point Biserial 0.45</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention (option [A] to be credited in addition to option [C]). The board concluded that the statistics did not support this conclusion. 45% of candidates answered the question correctly and there was very good discrimination. 21% of candidates chose option [A], and this had clear negative correlation. [A] could not be correct as it would have removed the court's discretion.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.40	1	<p>Passing rate 54%; Point Biserial 0.35</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention (credit option [A] in place of the stated correct option [B]). The Board rejected this suggestion. The question clearly related to the limitation period for torts other than personal injury, and the fact pattern clearly set out that no-one was injured. The Board also noted that the statistics did not suggest that candidates had been troubled by this.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.42	1	<p>Passing rate 63%; Point Biserial 0.33</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention (the answer could be interpreted in different ways hence there was ambiguity), and requesting improvement (unnecessarily long fact pattern).</p> <p>The Board noted that there was a reasonable spread of responses and very good discrimination. The Board concluded that there was no significant ambiguity created by the question, and that the fact pattern clearly diverted the candidates away from mediation and negotiation and reflecting the wording of Jackson.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.46	1	<p>Passing rate 73%; Point Biserial 0.33</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that option [A] should be credited in addition to preferred option [B] as the question required commentary knowledge.</p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
		<p>The Board concluded that the statistics did not support this: conclusion. 73% of candidates had answered the question correctly and there was very good discrimination. Only 8% of candidates chose option [A], and this had negative discrimination. Furthermore, option [A] could not be credited as it was incorrect.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Paper 2		
Q.1	1	<p>Passing rate 41%. Point Biserial 0.39</p> <p>This question concerned a dishonoured cheque and had been used several times previously with good statistics. AETO feedback was received requesting that the question be suppressed on the basis that defects in the goods supplied amount to at least a partial failure if not a wholesale failure of consideration.</p> <p>The Board disagreed with the AETO request on the grounds that there was not a total failure of consideration. The fact pattern clearly set out a dishonoured cheque case, the purpose of which was to prevent defendants trying to withhold payment by cheque by raising a dispute about the underlying contract.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.21	1	<p>Passing rate 63%; Point Biserial 0.34</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that option [A] should be credited in addition to the indicated 'best' answer [C]. The request was based on the assertion that the question was confusing for candidates in that it appeared to reverse the burden of proof in respect of an application.</p> <p>The Board noted that the question had generated very good statistics, with no positive correlation on any of the incorrect options. It was clear from the fact pattern that the application was presented and opposed. A proper analysis of the case revealed that there was a real</p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
		<p>prospect of succeeding on the claim given the assurances made prior to the contract being signed.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.22	1	<p>Passing rate 46%; Point Biserial 0.35</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that option [C] should be credited in addition to the indicated best answer [B]. The AETO contention was that Para 3.1 of PD20 indicated that the Court will normally deal with the case management of the additional claim at the same time and therefore option [C], as the only one referring to the timing of it, should be recognised as being correct as well. Although the PD does not use the word MUST, option [B] created the impression that the additional claim would be managed separately, which was not reflective of the PD and, which was likely to put candidates off choosing this option [B], and appeared to be a deliberate attempt by the examiners to trip up candidates.</p> <p>The examining team had some sympathy for the AETO argument but refuted any suggestion that they would ever actively seek to 'trip up' candidates. The statistics did not support the AETO's assertion and option [C] was not the best advice (see PD20 para 3.1). Only 19% of candidates chose option [C] which had negative correlation.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.25	1	<p>Passing rate 32%; Point Biserial 0.03</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that option [D] should be credited in addition to the indicated correct answer [C]. The AETO contention was based on the argument that question was silent about the inclusion in the offer of a 'specified period' which is one of the formalities required for a valid Part 36 offer. The silence as to the specified period could have been fairly taken by the reader as the absence of that formality from the offer (which would preclude the offer from being a valid Part 36 offer). Hence option [D] was a fair choice of answer, and crediting [B] only would be unfair.</p>

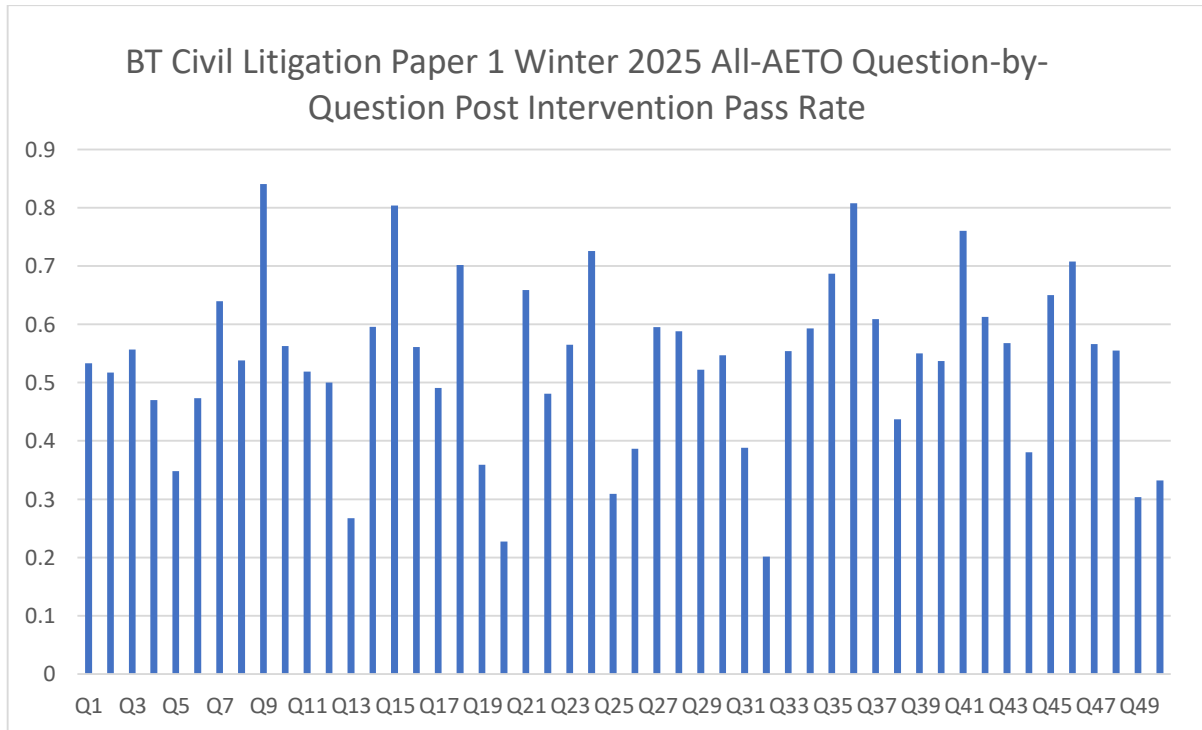
Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
		<p>The Board noted that 56% of candidates chose option [D] which had negative correlation (-0.06). CPR 36.5 (2) determined the issue, ie the requirement to specify a period does not apply if the offer is made less than 21 before the trial starts. The dates of the offer and the trial were clearly set out in the fact pattern. The Part 36 offer was therefore valid, and option [D], being incorrect, could not be credited.</p> <p>8% of candidates chose option [A] which had positive correlation (0.14, which was higher than that on the correct option [B] (0.03). Option [A] stated that the relevant period expired after the end of the trial, which was not correct. Option [B] was the only one that reflected the rule.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.27	1	<p>Passing rate 59%; Point Biserial 0.38</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that option [A] (and arguably option [B]) should be credited in addition to the indicated 'best' answer [C]. The AETO contention was based on the argument that, given the value of the claim exceeded £25,000, the pre-action protocol did not strictly apply and the practice direction on pre-action conduct was applicable. That made no mention of considering the evidence and arguments together. For this reason, option [C] was not strictly correct and may deterred candidates from choosing it, leading them to choose options [A] or[B] instead.</p> <p>The Board decided there was no merit in the AETO's request. The question was framed in line with the requirements of the protocol (see C2-016). The best answer (option [C]) contained the exact wording as to the obligations.</p> <p>The Board also noted the very good statistics. Only 10% of candidates chose option [A] which had negative correlation (-0.15). Only 14% of candidates chose option [B] which had negative correlation (-0.21).</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.33	1	<p>Passing rate 62%; Point Biserial 0.31</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that the question should be suppressed. The basis for this request was the assertion that, because the application in question had a costs order 'costs in the case', the court may not have carried out an assessment of the costs payable at the time of the application because it would not have been clear at that point who would win the case and therefore which party would get the benefit of their costs relating to this application.</p> <p>The Board noted that this SBA had been used previously and that the statistics generated were sound. Option [A] was not correct (see PD 44 para 4.2). Option [C] was incorrect as the costs order (costs in the case) could not come into effect until proceedings are concluded. Option [D] was also incorrect. Option [B] was therefore correct on the facts given in the RCS. The Board decided there was no merit in the request for intervention.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.36	1	<p>Passing rate 51%; Point Biserial 0.12</p> <p>AETO feedback was received requesting an intervention to the effect that the question should be suppressed. The basis for this request was the assertion that the question to require practitioner level knowledge.</p> <p>The Board noted that the question was about the correct address on the claim form; option [D] was correct and the wording followed the practice direction (see PD 16 para 2.3). The Board concluded that the statistics did not support this assertion. 35% of candidates chose option [A] but appeared to be guessing, rather than looking it up.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

3.2 Post-intervention pass rate of MCQs

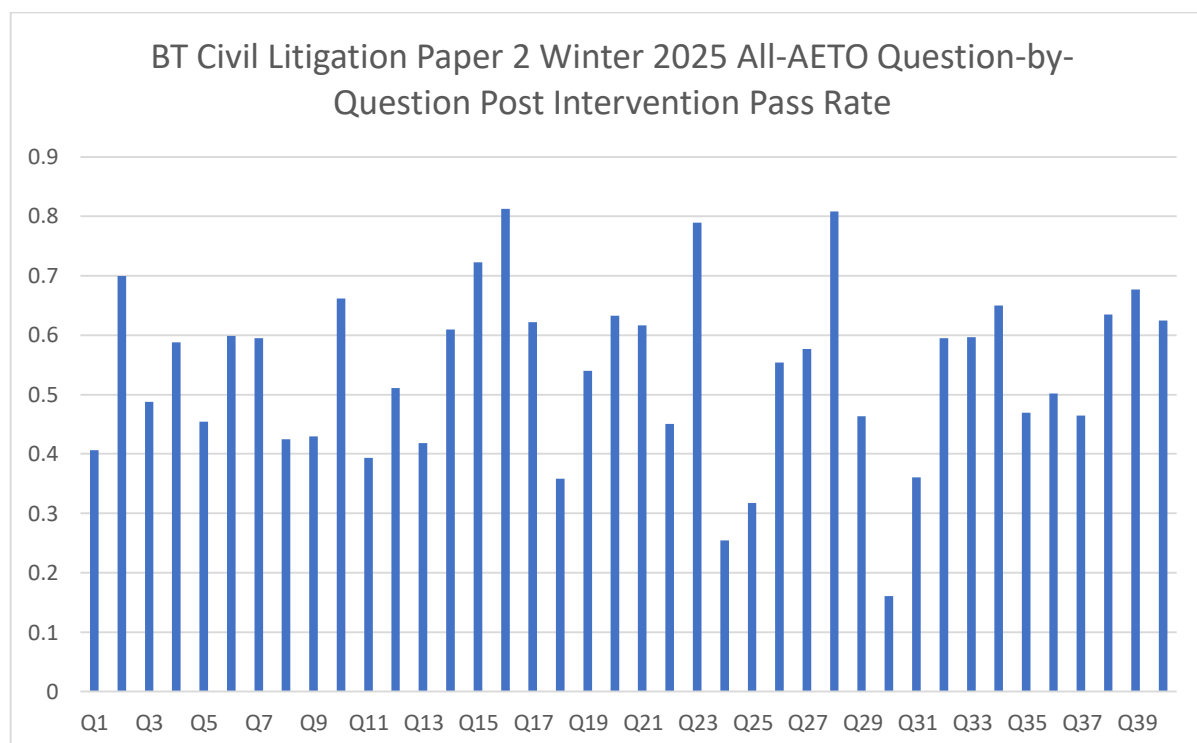
The bar charts below show the facility scores (% of Bar Training candidates answering correctly) for each of the questions in the December 2025 Civil Litigation examination (following any agreed interventions detailed at 3.1.2).

3.2.1 Paper 1



For Civil Litigation paper 1 the post-intervention data shows 11 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to five out of 50 for the August 2025 sit). Assuming candidates attempted the questions in the order presented there is no material evidence of candidate fatigue being a factor. The average passing rate was 54% across the first 25 MCQs and 55% across MCQs 26 to 50.

3.2.2 Paper 2



For Civil Litigation paper 2 the post-intervention data show 6 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 13 out of 40 for the August 2025 sitting). Across both papers 1 and 2 there were, therefore, 17/90 questions with a passing rate of 40% or below (compared to 18/90 in the August 2025 sitting). Assuming candidates attempted the paper 2 questions in the order presented there is no clear evidence of candidate fatigue being a factor, although candidates clearly found both RCS 2 and RCS 5 slightly more challenging.

Civil Litigation Paper 2 Passing Rate By Section	
Section/RCS	Passing Rate
Paper 2 first five questions (standalone MCQs)	53%
Paper 2 RCS 1 (questions 56-62)	52%
Paper 2 RCS 2 (questions 63-69)	58%
Paper 2 RCS 3 (questions 70-76)	52%
Paper 2 RCS 4 (questions 77-83)	51%
Paper 2 RCS 5 (questions 84-90)	57%

3.3 Standard setting and reliability of the assessment

3.3.1 The standard setting exercise was undertaken without incident and the Chair for that exercise commended the recommended pass standard of 47.6/90 to the Exam Board, which was rounded up to 48/90 following the Board's convention. Given the Board's decision to suppress item 11 on Paper 1 the pass standard was recalculated on the basis of 89 questions which produced a pass standard of 47.1/89. The usual convention would be to round this figure up to 48/89. The Board agreed with a proposal that, there may be potential unfairness to candidates if the number of correct answers required to pass the exam were to stay at 48 despite the suppression of question 11. In light of this, the convention of rounding up the pass standard was not applied on this occasion; hence a pass standard of 47/89 was confirmed.

3.3.2 Data supplied to the final Exam Board by the psychometrician indicated that the assessment had achieved a KR-20 Reliability score of 0.92, exceeding the benchmark of 0.8. The Exam Board noted that all other data suggested an assessment operating as expected.

	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25
No. of Candidates	937	1728	1099	1002
No. of Scored Items	89	90	90	89
Pass Standard	50	51	49	47
Pass Rate (%)	61.5	54.3	48.1	48.8%
Mean Score	54.8	52.8	49.0	54.4
Standard Deviation	13.7	14.3	12.6	14.6
Range of Scores	23 to 87	16 to 87	18 to 85	19 to 87
Reliability (KR-20)	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.92
Standard Error of Measurement	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2

3.4 Chief Examiner's Report

The Chief Examiner for Civil Litigation confirmed that she was satisfied that this assessment was fair to candidates and allowed them to demonstrate their competence to the required threshold.

3.5 Independent Observer confirmation

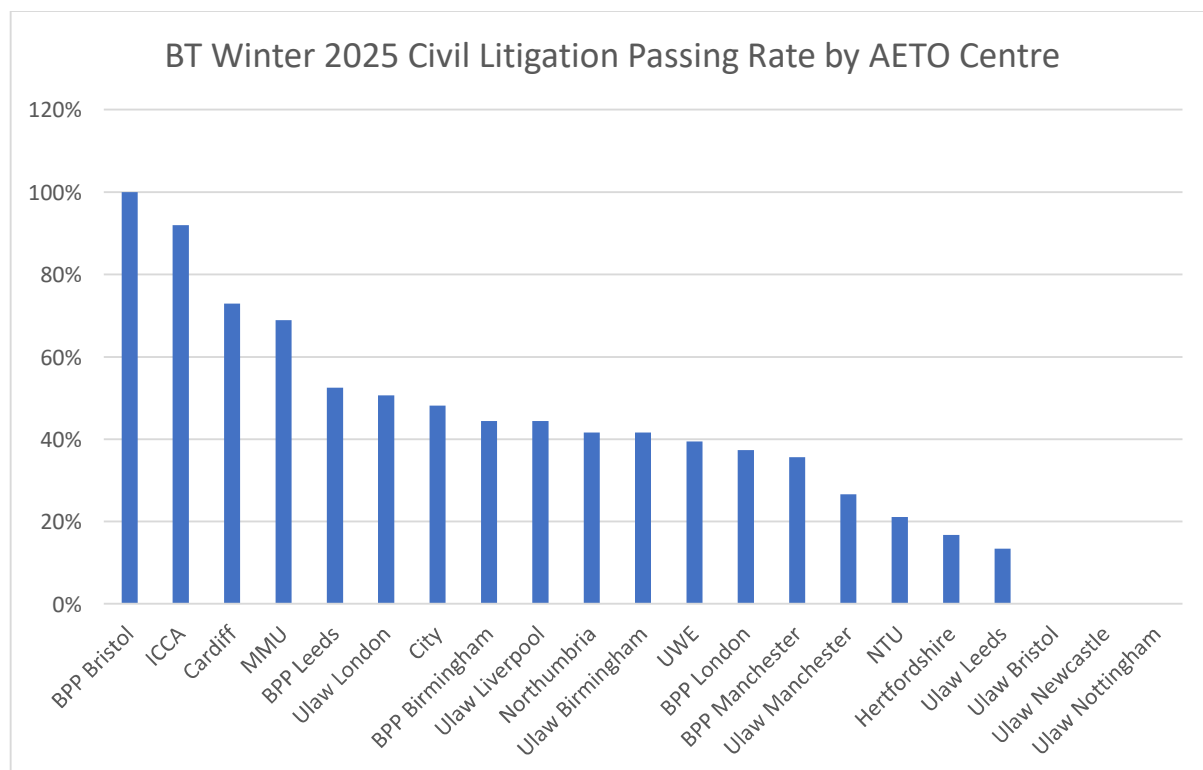
The Independent Observer endorsed the proceedings in respect of the Civil Litigation assessment.

3.6 Civil Litigation post-intervention pass rate December 2025

All AETO Post-Intervention	Civil Litigation April 2024	Civil Litigation August 2024	Civil Litigation December 2024
No. of Candidates	1748	987	937
Passing Rate	60%	45%	61%
All AETO Post-Intervention	Civil Litigation April 2025	Civil Litigation August 2025	Civil Litigation December 2025
No. of Candidates	1728	1099	1002
Passing Rate	54%	48%	49%

The table above shows the all-AETO December 2025 post-intervention Bar Training cohort pass rate of 49% for Civil Litigation, based on a passing standard recommended to the Final Board of 47/89. The post-intervention passing rate is slightly above the below the average of the previous five sittings (53%).

3.7 December 2025 Civil Litigation pass rates by AETO



- 3.7.1 The 21 AETO centre cohorts entering candidates for the Civil Litigation assessment are ranged left to right in descending order of their December 2025 pass rates. BPP Bristol lead the table with a 100% passing rate, but this was based on a single resit candidate. The ICCA cohort (87 candidates) achieved the second highest passing rate at 92%. The Bristol, Newcastle and Nottingham centres of ULaw failed to progress any candidates in the December 2025 sitting for Civil litigation, but this must be seen in the context of very low candidate numbers (2, 3 and 3 respectively) and the fact that none of these candidates were attempting the assessment on a first-sit basis.
- 3.7.2 Distribution of first sit candidates across the AETO centres for Civil Litigation December 2025 sitting

AETOs ranked by % of cohort first sitting			
AETO	Cohort Size	# First Sit	% First Sit
ICCA	87	85	98%
MMU	45	43	96%
Cardiff	111	105	95%
BPP Leeds	59	53	90%
BPP Manchester	87	65	75%
BPP Birmingham	27	14	52%
BPP London	292	118	40%
ULaw London	77	25	32%
ULaw Leeds	15	2	13%
City	54	6	11%
NTU	38	4	11%
ULaw Birmingham	12	1	8%
ULaw Liverpool	18	1	6%
UWE	38	2	5%
BPP Bristol	1	0	0%
Hertfordshire	6	0	0%
Northumbria	12	0	0%
ULaw Bristol	2	0	0%
ULaw Manchester	15	0	0%
ULaw Newcastle	3	0	0%
ULaw Nottingham	3	0	0%
OVERALL	1,002	524	52%

Only six of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates for the December 2025 Civil Litigation assessment had a preponderance of first sit candidates. Seven AETOs only entered resit candidates in the December 2025 Civil Litigation assessment.

3.7.3 Comparison of first sit and resit candidate passing rates at each AETO for Civil Litigation December 2025 sitting

First Sit Pass Rates and Resit Pass Rates CIVIL LITIGATION		
AETO	First Sit % Pass	Resit % Pass
BPP Birmingham	50%	38%
BPP Bristol	N/A	100%
BPP Leeds	55%	33%
BPP London	54%	26%
BPP Manchester	42%	18%
Cardiff	72%	83%
City	33%	50%
Hertfordshire	N/A	17%
ICCA	93%	50%
MMU	72%	0%
Northumbria	N/A	42%
NTU	0%	24%
ULaw Birmingham	0%	45%
ULaw Bristol	N/A	0%
ULaw Leeds	50%	8%
ULaw Liverpool	0%	47%
ULaw London	56%	48%
ULaw Manchester	N/A	27%
ULaw Newcastle	N/A	0%
ULaw Nottingham	N/A	0%
UWE	0%	42%
OVERALL	63%	33%

Data presented to the exam boards for the December 2025 sitting showing the split between first sit and resit candidates for Civil Litigation revealed that 52% were attempting on a first sit basis (ie first ever attempt at the examination, or previous attempts discounted on the basis of accepted extenuating circumstances), and 48% as resit candidates (ie candidates who had previously failed the examination without mitigating circumstances having been submitted or accepted). First sit cohorts tend to be stronger than resit cohorts, and this is reflected in the 63% passing rate for first sit candidates compared to the 33% passing rate for resit candidates. For the December 2025 Civil Litigation examination, only six of the 14 AETO centres with both first sit and resit candidates reported higher passing rates for their resit cohorts compared to their first sit cohorts.

3.7.4 Passing rates of first sit cohorts at each AETO for Civil Litigation December 2025 sitting

AETOs Ranked by First Sit Pass Rate CIVIL LITIGATION	
AETO	First Sit % Pass
ICCA	93%
Cardiff	72%
MMU	72%
ULaw London	56%
BPP Leeds	55%
BPP London	54%
BPP Birmingham	50%
ULaw Leeds	50%
BPP Manchester	42%
City	33%
NTU	0%
ULaw Birmingham	0%
ULaw Liverpool	0%
UWE	0%
BPP Bristol	N/A
Hertfordshire	N/A
Northumbria	N/A
ULaw Bristol	N/A
ULaw Manchester	N/A
ULaw Newcastle	N/A
ULaw Nottingham	N/A

There were six AETO centres (who entered first sit candidates) where fewer than 50% of first sit candidates managed to pass the December 2025 Civil Litigation assessment (seven AETO centres having no first sit candidates).

3.8 Civil Litigation trend data – how AETO cohorts have performed over the last six sits

	Apr-24 % Pass	Aug-24 % Pass	Dec-24 % Pass	Apr-25 % Pass	Aug-25 % Pass	Dec-25 % Pass	Average Over Six sits
ICCA	87%	88%	95%	86%	82%	92%	88%
Ulaw London	69%	60%	61%	63%	42%	51%	58%
BPP Bristol	53%	20%	50%	47%	75%	100%	57%
City	71%	47%	45%	69%	58%	48%	56%
Ulaw Birmingham	52%	55%	61%	59%	66%	42%	56%
Ulaw Bristol	74%	40%	75%	76%	57%	0%	54%
Ulaw Leeds	75%	54%	40%	73%	66%	13%	54%
Cardiff	51%	47%	77%	33%	33%	73%	53%
Ulaw Liverpool	57%	43%	47%	56%	47%	44%	49%
Northumbria	63%	48%	29%	60%	50%	42%	49%
UWE	60%	45%	39%	47%	54%	39%	47%
BPP Birmingham	45%	49%	61%	32%	46%	44%	46%
BPP Leeds	27%	31%	62%	46%	54%	53%	45%
Ulaw Manchester	73%	39%	22%	65%	39%	27%	44%
MMU	80%	0%	48%	20%	42%	69%	43%
BPP Manchester	34%	54%	66%	30%	38%	36%	43%
Ulaw Nottingham	62%	50%	50%	27%	56%	0%	41%
Ulaw Newcastle	45%	50%	33%	56%	57%	0%	40%
BPP London	39%	34%	53%	36%	41%	37%	40%
Hertfordshire	50%	0%	50%	20%	25%	17%	27%
NTU	34%	16%	27%	35%	28%	21%	27%

3.8.1 AETO centre cohorts are listed in order of the average of their Civil Litigation passing rates across the last six sittings of the Bar Training centralised assessments. The data show that the ICCA has achieved the highest average passing rate (88%), being the best performing AETO centre in five of the previous six sittings of the Civil Litigation assessment. NTU and the University of Hertfordshire have the joint lowest average at 27% (although it should be noted that NTU has never been the lowest scoring AETO, in terms of the passing rate for Civil Litigation, in any of those six sittings).

3.8.2 An alternative way of assessing the success of each AETO centre across all the sittings to date is to consider the cumulative total of attempts at the exam by candidates at that AETO made over all sittings thus far, and to compare this with the number of those attempts which were passing attempts. As discussed in section 2.8.2 above, note that individual candidates may attempt an assessment multiple times before making a passing attempt, and so the data below does not represent the percentage of candidates who pass, it represents the percentage of attempts made at the exam which were passing attempts.

BT Civil Litigation December 2020 to December 2025 (16 Sits)			
AETO	Total Number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	911	809	89%
ULaw Bristol	164	110	67%
City	2691	1743	65%
ULaw Leeds	531	341	64%
Cardiff	706	422	60%
ULaw Manchester	406	229	56%
ULaw London	1728	964	56%
ULaw Birmingham	639	329	51%
ULaw Liverpool	375	191	51%
ULaw Newcastle	62	31	50%
ULaw Nottingham	98	49	50%
BPP Manchester	1071	523	49%
BPP Leeds	359	175	49%
Northumbria	559	272	49%
BPP Bristol	160	76	48%
UWE	1118	529	47%
MMU	268	122	46%
BPP London	3821	1697	44%
BPP Birmingham	640	274	43%
NTU	704	210	30%
Hertfordshire	78	18	23%
OVERALL	17089	9114	53%

As can be seen from the above table, Civil Litigation assessments have been passed 9,114 times since the first sitting in December 2020, based on 17,089 attempts – thus the aggregate passing rate to date is 53%. There are 14 AETOs where the cumulative passing rate is below this figure. The range between the highest rate of passing attempts and lowest rate of passing attempts is 66%. Ten AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts below 50%. As noted above regarding the Criminal Litigation data, this does not imply that less than 50% of candidates ultimately pass this exam, but it does mean that the Civil Litigation exam is passed less than 50% of the times it is attempted at that AETO. The ICCA is, cumulatively, the best performing AETO centre in terms of its passing rate for Civil Litigation candidates, with a gap of 22% between it and the next most successful AETO centre. Using this methodology, the University of Hertfordshire sits at the bottom of this table, with a cumulative passing rate of 23% for Civil Litigation candidates - compare with the table at 3.8 (above).

4. FURTHER COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1 Comparing performance in Criminal and Civil Litigation examinations

At 49%, the passing rate for the December 2025 Civil Litigation assessment was 7% lower than the passing rate for the December 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment. Both assessments had similar levels of first sit candidates; Criminal Litigation 50% versus Civil Litigation 52%. A total of 352 Bar Training candidates attempted both Litigation assessments at the December 2025 sitting and the cross-tabulated outcomes, are as follows:

(a) All candidates attempting both papers:

All BT Candidates Sitting Both Exams (352)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	131	23
Fail Civil	40	158

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	37%	7%
Fail Civil	11%	45%

(b) All candidates attempting both papers as first sit candidates:

All BT Candidates First Sitting Both Exams (117)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	93	4
Fail Civil	4	16

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	79%	3%
Fail Civil	3%	14%

(c) All candidates attempting both papers as resit candidates:

All BT Candidates Resitting Both Exams (174)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	27	14
Fail Civil	26	107

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	16%	8%
Fail Civil	15%	61%

The key cells (on the shaded background) are those which show the number of candidates who passed one subject but failed the other. If the two subjects were equally difficult to pass (making allowances for the fact that the examinations in Civil and Criminal Litigation have different formats), the number of candidates in these two cells should be approximately equal. To the extent that this data provides a reliable means of evidencing whether the two assessments (notwithstanding their differing formats) provided a similar level of challenge, some comfort can be drawn from the relative closeness of the figures in the shaded boxes at (b) in respect of the performance of first sit candidates.

It should be noted that whilst there were 352 candidates attempting both assessments – as represented in table (a), not all candidates were first sitting both assessments or resitting both assessments (some may have been first sitting one and resitting another) – hence the sum of tables (b) and (c) does not equal 352.

As the table below indicates, using the Pearson correlation coefficient ('Pearson R' analysis of correlation) suggests a very strong correlation in terms of the performance of all candidates attempting both examinations.

Bar Training Candidates Sitting Both Exams Correlation of Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation Post-Intervention Scores			
Group	Number of Candidates	Pearson's R	Interpretation
All BT Candidates Sitting Both Exams	352	0.87	Very Strong Correlation
BT Candidates First Sitting Both Exams	117	0.91	Very Strong Correlation
BT Candidates Resitting Both Exams	174	0.62	Strong Correlation

4.2 Centralised assessment post-intervention pass rates compared December 2020 to December 2025

All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-20		Apr-21		Aug-21	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	383	407	1104	989	827	738
Passing Rate	60%	56%	46%	49%	42%	41%
Pass Standard	44/75	50/90	41/75	52/89	46/75	50/89
Reliability Score	0.91	0.91	0.86	0.90	0.85	0.88
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-21		Apr-22		Aug-22	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	824	824	1653	1517	802	791
Passing Rate	56%	53%	64%	60%	52%	46%
Pass Standard	44/75	50/90	44/75	49/89	42/75	52/90
Reliability Score	0.87	0.89	0.89	0.90	0.85	0.85
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-22		Apr-23		Aug-23	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	596	929	1583	1671	842	890
Passing Rate	50%	56%	66%	60%	40%	45%
Pass Standard	44/75	48/90	43/75	51/89	43/75	50/89
Reliability Score	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.88	0.90
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-23		Apr-24		Aug-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	799	833	1754	1748	1008	987
Passing Rate	55%	53%	61%	60%	48%	45%
Pass Standard	42/75	49/90	41/75	51/90	41/75	49/90
Reliability Score	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.92	0.84	0.87
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-24		Apr-25		Aug-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	887	937	1811	1728	1103	1099
Passing Rate	50%	61%	54%	54%	57%	48%
Pass Standard	41/75	50/89	42/75	51/90	40/75	49/90
Reliability Score	0.88	0.92	0.89	0.92	0.84	0.89
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-25		Apr-26		Aug-26	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	787	1002				
Passing Rate	56%	49%				
Pass Standard	40/75	47/89				
Reliability Score	0.89	0.92				

For Civil Litigation, candidate numbers for December 2025 were the highest for a December sitting since the new format for the centralised assessments was introduced in December 2020. The passing rate Criminal Litigation was largely in line with previous December sittings, whilst the passing rate in Civil Litigation was 7% lower than the average for the previous five December sittings, and the lowest December sitting pass rate since the introduction of the current assessment format in December 2020. The April 2023 passing rate for Criminal Litigation (66%) remains the highest recorded for either subject across the 16 sittings to date, and the August 2023 passing rate for Criminal Litigation (40%) is the lowest. The variations in cohort size tends to reflect the course structures adopted by AETOs, which in turn determines when most of their candidates will be attempting each of the centralised assessments for the first time. Cohort numbers are also impacted by the approval of additional AETOs and additional AETO centres. Nine cohorts were entered for December 2020, this figure increasing to 18 for April 2021, and then to 21 by the time of the April 2023 sitting.

4.3 December 2025 post-intervention pass rates for both Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation by AETO

AETO	Civil Litigation % Pass	Criminal Litigation % Pass	AVERAGE
ICCA	92%	95%	94%
BPP Bristol	100%	60%	80%
MMU	69%	78%	74%
Cardiff	73%	71%	72%
Northumbria	42%	75%	58%
BPP Birmingham	44%	67%	56%
ULaw Liverpool	44%	59%	52%
BPP Leeds	53%	50%	51%
ULaw Bristol	0%	100%	50%
ULaw London	51%	48%	49%
City	48%	46%	47%
BPP Manchester	36%	57%	46%
UWE	39%	42%	41%
BPP London	37%	41%	39%
ULaw Leeds	13%	55%	34%
ULaw Birmingham	42%	22%	32%
ULaw Manchester	27%	25%	26%
NTU	21%	23%	22%
ULaw Newcastle	0%	33%	17%
Hertfordshire	17%	0%	8%
ULaw Nottingham	0%	0%	0%

4.3.1 AETO cohorts are listed in descending order of the average of their passing rates across the two December 2025 Litigation examinations. The ICCA, therefore, had the highest average passing rate across both Litigation subjects at 94%, with BPP Bristol next on 80%. ULaw Nottingham recorded the lowest average at 0% (seven resit candidates across both subjects with none passing). Overall, 12 of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates failed to achieve an average passing rate of 50% across the two Litigation subjects. These figures must be viewed in the context of low cohort numbers at some AETO centres.

4.3.2 An alternative way of looking at the extent to which AETO centres were successful in supporting their candidates in the December 2025 Litigation assessments is to aggregate the total number of candidates entered for each exam at an AETO centre and compare this with the aggregate number of candidates passing at that AETO centre.

AETO	Dec-25 Number of Criminal Candidates	Dec-25 Number of Civil Candidates	Total Dec-25 Instances of Assessment	Dec-25 Number Passing Criminal	Dec-25 Number Passing Civil	Total Dec-25 Passing Results	Overall % of Criminal and Civil Litigation Examinations Passed Dec-25
ICCA	110	87	197	105	80	185	94%
MMU	55	45	100	43	31	74	74%
Cardiff	31	111	142	22	81	103	73%
BPP Bristol	5	1	6	3	1	4	67%
BPP Birmingham	45	27	72	30	12	42	58%
Northumbria	8	12	20	6	5	11	55%
BPP Leeds	6	59	65	3	31	34	52%
ULaw Liverpool	17	18	35	10	8	18	51%
ULaw London	50	77	127	24	39	63	50%
City	57	54	111	26	26	52	47%
BPP Manchester	69	87	156	39	31	70	45%
UWE	31	38	69	13	15	28	41%
BPP London	234	292	526	95	109	204	39%
ULaw Birmingham	9	12	21	2	5	7	33%
ULaw Bristol	1	2	3	1	0	1	33%
ULaw Leeds	11	15	26	6	2	8	31%
ULaw Manchester	8	15	23	2	4	6	26%
NTU	30	38	68	7	8	15	22%
ULaw Newcastle	3	3	6	1	0	1	17%
Hertfordshire	3	6	9	0	1	1	11%
ULaw Nottingham	4	3	7	0	0	0	0%

As the table above shows, the ICCA was the most successful AETO in terms of the percentage of candidates entered for the December 2025 examinations achieving a pass, in either assessment, with a figure of 94%. As outlined above, at ULaw Nottingham, none of the candidates were successful. For the December 2025 sitting, out of 21 AETO centres, 12 failed to achieve a 50% progression rate calculated on this basis.

4.3.3 The extent to which these outcomes reflect the impact of resitting candidates remains, to some extent, a matter of conjecture. If there is a correlation between lower passing rates and the number of resitting candidates, it might be reasonable to expect any AETO centre with an above average percentage of first sit candidates to be able to achieve a higher-than-average passing rate across both Litigation subjects taken together. For the December 2025 sitting, there were 1,789 candidates across the two Litigation subjects, of which 814 (45.5%) were resitting. For the Criminal Litigation assessment, the December 2025 data show a strong correlation (0.71) between a higher percentage of first sit candidates and higher cohort passing rates. For the Civil litigation assessment, the equivalent correlation figure is lower (0.55) but still evidence of a strong correlation. Again, the usual caveats apply when considering any analysis involving small cohort numbers.

4.3.4 Looking across the last 16 cycles of centralised Bar Training litigation assessments there is no compelling evidence (allowing for the difference in assessment formats) to suggest AETO cohorts have found the Civil Litigation assessments significantly more challenging than those in Criminal Litigation, although the variations in outcomes for specific sittings are quite marked. The table below shows the variance in passing rates between the two Litigation subjects for each AETO centre at each of the 16 sittings for the current assessment format (AETOs without cohorts for a sitting have blank data cells). The blue shading (negative) indicates that candidates have performed better in Crime than in Civil, hence, at BPP Birmingham in December 2020 the Civil Litigation passing rate was 4% below that for Criminal Litigation.

AETO	Average Across All Sits To-Date	Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22	
BPP Birmingham	-3%	-4%	12%	8%	-14%	-14%	9%	
BPP Bristol	3%	-3%	6%	12%	-1%	-11%	-2%	
BPP Leeds	-6%	-27%	21%	-27%	9%	-1%	-3%	
BPP London	-2%	-4%	13%	-10%	-7%	8%	-1%	
BPP Manchester	-3%	-3%	16%	-16%	0%	-2%	-13%	
Cardiff	-12%	-2%	-35%	1%	21%	-3%	-19%	
City	3%	12%	14%	7%	-9%	3%	-5%	
Hertfordshire	1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ICCA	-3%	0%	-20%	14%	-5%	-5%	-7%	
MMU	-3%	-13%	-21%	9%	16%	-26%	-18%	
Northumbria	-3%	N/A	-28%	8%	4%	-13%	7%	
NTU	-3%	N/A	-41%	5%	9%	-9%	2%	
Ulaw Birmingham	0%	N/A	13%	9%	-22%	-20%	-6%	
Ulaw Bristol	7%	N/A	-3%	-25%	N/A	-6%	0%	
Ulaw Leeds	1%	N/A	13%	8%	18%	-9%	-2%	
Ulaw Liverpool	1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-8%	10%	
Ulaw London	-2%	N/A	0%	-5%	-8%	-8%	-13%	
Ulaw Manchester	2%	N/A	16%	-2%	0%	-16%	6%	
Ulaw Newcastle	-8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Ulaw Nottingham	-6%	N/A	-23%	-100%	0%	-28%	-5%	
UWE	2%	N/A	13%	5%	-7%	-5%	-19%	
		AVERAGE	-5%	-2%	-5%	0%	-9%	-4%

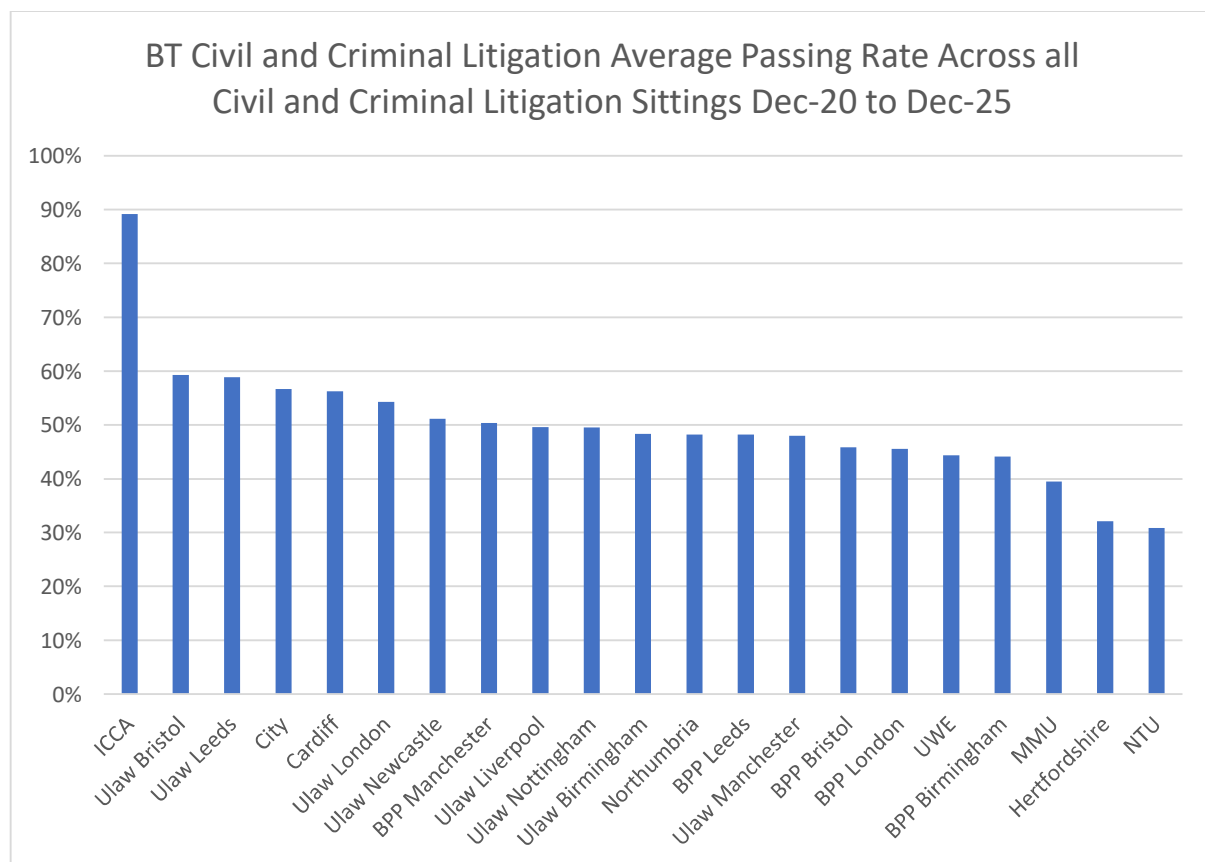
	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	1%	-21%	-19%	-3%	-13%	2%
BPP Bristol	N/A	-78%	22%	15%	28%	-42%
BPP Leeds	-4%	-11%	-16%	-6%	-39%	4%
BPP London	11%	-10%	1%	-1%	-11%	-8%
BPP Manchester	13%	-8%	-5%	-2%	-22%	17%
Cardiff	18%	-28%	-23%	-8%	-22%	-11%
City	9%	0%	11%	-9%	3%	0%
Hertfordshire	3%	11%	14%	0%	0%	-33%
ICCA	-3%	-5%	1%	-1%	-3%	1%
MMU	-11%	17%	14%	5%	42%	-67%
Northumbria	-14%	-11%	18%	6%	-3%	12%
NTU	-17%	2%	11%	10%	2%	-14%
Ulaw Birmingham	0%	2%	4%	8%	-4%	9%
Ulaw Bristol	33%	-8%	24%	N/A	-3%	0%
Ulaw Leeds	-3%	0%	8%	-7%	2%	-6%
Ulaw Liverpool	50%	-6%	10%	-14%	3%	-17%
Ulaw London	7%	-4%	10%	-9%	9%	-1%
Ulaw Manchester	57%	-17%	23%	-13%	14%	-18%
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	-44%	-20%	N/A	0%	-33%
Ulaw Nottingham	67%	-10%	0%	N/A	15%	25%
UWE	28%	0%	14%	-5%	7%	5%
AVERAGE	13%	-11%	5%	-2%	0%	-8%

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	15%	-2%	-2%	-22%		
BPP Bristol	33%	13%	46%	40%		
BPP Leeds	37%	-27%	4%	3%		
BPP London	16%	-12%	-9%	-3%		
BPP Manchester	23%	-24%	-14%	-21%		
Cardiff	11%	-35%	-48%	2%		
City	1%	5%	-2%	3%		
Hertfordshire	50%	-18%	-20%	17%		
ICCA	3%	5%	-15%	-4%		
MMU	-14%	-11%	32%	-9%		
Northumbria	-25%	-4%	-6%	-33%		
NTU	19%	0%	-22%	-2%		
Ulaw Birmingham	22%	-10%	3%	19%		
Ulaw Bristol	75%	6%	-10%	-100%		
Ulaw Leeds	3%	-14%	-3%	-41%		
Ulaw Liverpool	13%	-4%	-25%	-14%		
Ulaw London	23%	-1%	-29%	3%		
Ulaw Manchester	-3%	2%	-18%	2%		
Ulaw Newcastle	33%	-21%	32%	-33%		
Ulaw Nottingham	-10%	-27%	22%	0%		
UWE	3%	-8%	1%	-2%		
AVERAGE	16%	-9%	-4%	-9%		

The biggest average differential is recorded by Cardiff – 12% higher in Criminal Litigation (across all 16 sittings). For the December 2025 sitting, the higher passing rate in Criminal Litigation is reflected in the fact that only eight out of 21 AETO cohorts performed more strongly in Civil Litigation compared to Criminal Litigation.

4.4 AETO average passing rates since December 2020

An analysis of passing rates achieved by each AETO cohort in both Litigation subjects across all 16 Bar Training Course examination sittings to date (adjusted to allow for the fact that some AETOs may not have had candidates for some sittings) shows the following:



The ICCA has the highest average passing rate across both Litigation subjects and all sittings to date at 89%, and NTU the lowest at 31%. The ICCA is, thus far, some way ahead of the other AETO centres in terms of single-sit performance, the gap between it and second placed ULaw Bristol being 30%. There are 11 AETO centres where the average passing rate across both Litigation subjects and all sittings to date is below 50%. Again, it is important to bear in mind the caveats flagged in Part 1 of the Chair’s report at 3.1.1 when considering these results.

4.5 Overall passing rates across both subjects December 2020 to December 2025

4.5.1 Cumulative passing rate to date disaggregated by AETO centre

BT Civil and Criminal Litigation December 2020 to December 2025 (16 Sits)			
AETO	Total number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	1830	1647	90%
ULaw Bristol	326	221	68%
ULaw Leeds	1069	706	66%
City	5616	3539	63%
Cardiff	1306	810	62%
ULaw Manchester	805	464	58%
ULaw London	3455	1983	57%
ULaw Newcastle	114	65	57%
ULaw Liverpool	745	393	53%
Northumbria	1054	555	53%
ULaw Birmingham	1301	683	52%
ULaw Nottingham	191	99	52%
BPP Manchester	2012	1017	51%
BPP Leeds	650	328	50%
MMU	587	283	48%
UWE	2320	1085	47%
BPP Bristol	306	140	46%
BPP London	7348	3322	45%
BPP Birmingham	1252	565	45%
NTU	1409	451	32%
Hertfordshire	156	40	26%
OVERALL	33852	18396	54%

This table aggregates all the attempts by candidates at both the Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation examinations across all 16 sittings from December 2020 to December 2025. In total there have been 33,852 attempts at the centralised assessments by Bar Training candidates, of which 18,396 have been successful (54%). As can be seen, 13 AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts lower than this overall passing rate, with seven AETO centres seeing less than 50% of all attempts being passing attempts since the introduction of the Bar Training course in 2020. As discussed at sections 2.8.2 and 3.8.2, this does not equate to less than 50% of candidates passing because individual candidates may be recorded as having multiple failing attempts before ultimately making a single passing attempt. Similarly, overall pass rates from the table above (derived by dividing the total number of passes by the total number of attempts) are not the same as the simple average of pass rates shown at 4.4; however, both pieces of data provide insights into how successful each AETO centre has been in supporting its candidates to pass the centralised Litigation assessments within fewer attempts.

4.5.2 Cumulative passing rate disaggregated by AETO group – 16 sittings to date

The table below takes the data used for table 4.5.1 but aggregates the cumulative totals for the six University of Law centres and the five BPP centres, to produce an aggregate cumulative score for each of those AETOs across all of their centres.

BT Civil and Criminal Litigation December 2020 to December 2025 (16 Sits)			
AETO	Total Number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	1830	1647	90%
City	5616	3539	63%
Cardiff	1306	810	62%
ULaw Group	8006	4614	58%
Northumbria	1054	555	53%
BPP Group	11568	5372	46%
UWE	2320	1085	47%
MMU	587	283	48%
NTU	1409	451	32%
Hertfordshire	156	40	26%

Presenting the data this way shows that the ICCA remains the most successful AETO in terms of the percentage of attempts at a centralised assessment being deemed a pass, 27% ahead of the second placed AETO, City University. Of the two largest AETOs, ULaw is ahead of BPP, although ULaw has not entered cohorts for all sittings. Five AETO groups have not, to date, managed to exceed the 50% overall success level for centralised Litigation assessments.

5. BAR TRAINING RESIT RESULTS DECEMBER 2025

For the December 2023 sitting the BSB decided to pilot a scheme to allow candidates, who commenced their Bar training from September 2020 onwards, to take further re-sits of the elements of assessment that are necessary to be Called to the Bar (which the BSB regulates), even if they had reached the maximum number of permitted re-sits for the academic award at their training provider such as a Postgraduate Diploma or LLM (which the BSB does not regulate). For the December 2023 pilot scheme this facility was made available for BPP candidates only. From April 2024 this facility was extended to candidates from all AETOs. Candidates attempt the same assessments as other Bar Training and BTT candidates. Candidates were again offered this resit facility for the December 2025 sitting, the results for which were as follows:

Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention					Dec-23	
					Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates					8	6
Passing Rate					50%	33%
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	19	31	26	26	38	41
Passing Rate	26%	52%	42%	46%	24%	44%
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	60	47	70	64	71	72
Passing Rate	32%	11%	36%	39%	34%	31%

6. BAR TRANSFER TEST RESULTS DECEMBER 2025

The results for Bar Transfer Test ('BTT') candidates attempting the December 2025 BTT assessments were considered by the Litigation Subject Exam Boards and the Final Board. For the December 2025 sit, all BTT candidates attempted the same centrally assessed exam papers as the Bar Training Course candidates. See sections 2 and 3 (above) for details of the exam board discussion of interventions etc. The BTT passing rate in December 2025 for Criminal Litigation is exactly in line with the average of the previous 11 sittings. In the case of Civil litigation, however, the passing rate has collapsed from an average for the previous 11 sittings of 47%, to a disappointing 22%. Given the use of standard setting to help ensure a consistent level of difficulty across different sittings of the assessment, and the fact that not all BTT candidates will necessarily be taking both assessments, outlier results such as this point to variations in the quality of the candidature.

Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-22		Aug-22		Dec-22	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	70	62	65	51	41	39
Passing Rate	43%	45%	39%	33%	29%	62%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-23		Aug-23		Dec-23	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	24	18	42	54	40	33
Passing Rate	50%	44%	24%	39%	43%	46%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	58	31	25	24	25	21
Passing Rate	48%	52%	44%	50%	52%	43%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	22	14	20	16	23	9
Passing Rate	23%	36%	30%	44%	39%	22%

7. BPTC RESULTS DECEMBER 2025

7.1 Unification of assessment regimes

7.1.1 There are no longer any discrete BPTC assessments, the final opportunity to take an 'old style' BPTC 75 MCQ Civil Litigation paper was the April 2022 sit. See sections 2 and 3 (above) for details of the exam board discussion of interventions etc.

7.2 BPTC Passing rates December 2021 to December 2025

BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-22		Aug-22		Dec-22	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	167	229	70	43	45	31
Passing Rate	49%	31%	44%	26%	40%	45%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-23		Aug-23		Dec-23	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	36	57	29	37	15	12
Passing Rate	42%	53%	17%	30%	40%	25%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	24	18	19	17	11	40
Passing Rate	29%	22%	16%	29%	36%	55%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	10	8	7	33	12	7
Passing Rate	60%	38%	29%	42%	67%	43%

As the above table shows, the number of BPTC candidates is now steadily declining, the December 2025 sitting seeing only 12 candidate entries (across the two Litigation assessments). Understandably, given the cohort composition and distance in time between the delivery of tuition and attempting the assessment, the BPTC outcomes do not normally compare favourably with those for the main Bar Training cohort. On this occasion, however, the passing rate for Criminal Litigation is higher for the BPTC cohort than for the main Bar Training cohort.

Professor Mike Molan
 Chair of the Central Examination Board
 2 April 2026